(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is to prohibit the use, development, production, acquisition, stockpiling or transferring of chemical weapons by any State party to the Convention. The complex and difficult negotiations in which India played an active role, were concluded in the Conference on Disarmament after 12 years, in September 1992. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted it by consensus and India cosponsored the resolution in the UNGA. At the signing ceremony in Paris (13-15 January 1993), 130 countries joined the CWC as original signatories. The Convention comes into force 180 days after the date of deposit of the 65th Instrument of Ratification, but in no case earlier than two years after its opening for signature. The CWC is a multilaterally negotiated disarmament agreement which is universally applicable, comprehensive in scope and non-discriminatory in character with a stringent international verification regime. Thus the objectives of the CWC are in accordance with India's disarmament policy.

Closing of India-Pakistan Borders

200. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is considering to close its borders with India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Pakistan in possession of atomic bombs

201. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports of Pakistan possessing half-a-dozen atomic bombs;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) Government are aware of press reports in this regard.

(c) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on India's security and take necessary measures to safeguard it.

202. [*Transferred to 2nd March, 1993*].

Fact finding team from OIC to Kashmir

203. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) sought the permission of Government to send a fact finding team to Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what was the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The OIC General Secretariat has been informed that no purpose would be served by the visit of the OIC team to Kashmir, which is an integral part of India and the exclusive responsibility of the Indian authorities and that the OIC's suggestion is unacceptable.